

SEPT., 1998

## Next Town Assembly

Village of Arden  
Monday, January 25, 1999  
7:30 p.m. • Arden Gild Hall

### AGENDA

- Reports and initial nominations from all standing committees.  
**Note:** Please call Judy Butler, Advisory chairperson, if you have a nomination for town secretary or Advisory chairperson for election at next town meeting (March 22).
- Civic Committee notification of a possible change in parking restrictions
- Community Planning motion to pursue next stage of traffic calming at the intersection of Millers Road, Walnut and Lower Lanes
- Ordinance 12 annual discussion and vote

### SPECIAL NOTICE

#### Arden Assessors Public Meeting

Tuesday, April 6 • 8:00 p.m.  
Buzz Ware Village Center  
The Highway, Arden

This is an opportunity to present your views, concerns, questions or pertinent information before the Assessors begin their deliberations on the full rental value of Arden leaseholds and set land rent rates for 2000-2001. **Note:** Additional public hearings are scheduled for May 5 and June 1, 1999

# September 28, 1998 Town Assembly for the Village of Arden Gild Hall • Arden, Delaware

## Present:

Gail Rinehart  
 Neil Fisher  
 Aaron Hamburger  
 Sally Hamburger  
 Rodney Jester  
 Peggy Aumack  
 Lew Aumack  
 Bill Press  
 Deborah Laraway  
 Leon Tanzer  
 Sylvia Hilliard  
 Robert Hilliard  
 Elizabeth Varley  
 Tom Wheeler  
 Judy Butler  
 Wayne Smith (NV, State rep)  
 Naomi Clark  
 Richard Bloom  
 Skip Salkeld  
 Ann Morgan  
 Lynne Svenning  
 George Vernon  
 Bob Wynn (NV)  
 Kevin Noonan  
 Suzi Noonan  
 Lisa Taylor  
 Alex Sykulski  
 Harold Kalmus  
 Alan Burslem

Sadie Somerville  
 Lynda Kolski  
 Allan Kleban  
 Julie Regan  
 Tim Colgan  
 Marianne Cinaglia  
 Steven Threefoot  
 Betty O'Regan  
 Denis O'Regan  
 Margaritte Archer  
 Larry Walker  
 Bonnie Burslem  
 Eliot Levin  
 David Burslem  
 Chris Burslem  
 Walter Borders  
 Alex Scala  
 Lisa Mullinex  
 Elaine Schmerling  
 Ronald Enie  
 Marianne Rey  
 Marc Schule  
 Ken Lipstein  
 Johanne Schroeder  
 Ruth Bean  
 Lou Bean  
 David Warner  
 Robert Markham  
 Elizabeth Knott  
 Cookie Ohlson

Peter Renzetti  
 Dane Miller  
 Hugh Roberts  
 Marge Roberts  
 Jean K. Brachman  
 Maryellen Jobson  
 James Scott  
 Bernie Brachman  
 Cecilia Vore  
 Rick Grier-Reynolds  
 Rachel Reynolds-Grier  
 Paul Thompson  
 Dion Taylor  
 June Kleban  
 Lizzie Broadbent  
 Alton Dahl  
 Amy Hill  
 Mark Taylor  
 Heidi Hoegger  
 Jim Larsen  
 Beverly Barnett  
 Liz Resko  
 Joe deGrazia  
 John Stevenson  
 Rick Rothrock  
 Maria Burslem  
 Andrea Lange  
 Roger Rood  
 Patricia Pyle  
 Connee Wright McKinney

1. **Correspondence:** Several letters were received by the town: an announcement concerning the new Delaware College Investment Plan, an invitation to the 10th Delaware Institute for Local Government Leaders (Oct. 29), a letter from residents Peggy and Lew Aumack expressing their appreciation for the support from some residents of the Snow Leopard project in Nova Scotia in memory of their daughter Holly Aumack (see page 22), and a letter from Assessor Lew Aumack explaining his decision to abstain from support of the Assessors Land Rent Proposal (see page 23).
2. **Minutes:** Minutes approved.
3. **Trustees:**

1. The Local School District and County taxes due by Wednesday, September 30, have been calculated and will be paid accordingly. The total assessed value for Arden is \$13,944,200. The assessed value for improvements on the leaseholds is at \$9,988,800, up slightly from last year. The corresponding assessed value for leasehold land is \$13,955,400. With a tax rate of \$1.4465 per \$100 of assessed value, our payments for the '98-'99 fiscal year are as follows:

New Castle County Taxes .....	\$53,609.70
Local School Taxes .....	\$140,834.06
Rebates (sr. citizen and disability) .....	\$ 6,333.33

*Trustees Report continued*

for a total tax obligation of \$200,777.09. This reflects an increase of about \$3000.00 over last year that is a result of less qualifying exemptions, a slightly higher tax rate (1.4465 vs. 1.4225), and some additional improvements to leaseholds.

Two new wrinkles have developed over the year in connection with these taxes.

First—this summer the legislature approved an increase in the over 65 exemption that applies to the county taxes only, not to the local school taxes. This reflects a significant change from past practice.

Second—the county now requires anyone applying for a variance to pay the taxes due on their leasehold prior to submitting the application. This may or may not become an additional financial factor for a leaseholder depending on the time of year that the individual wants a variance as it relates to the timing of our payment. The expectation is that the county also will start requiring this for all building permits. We have decided to treat this internally in the same manner as our policy for senior citizen and disability rebates which means we will rebate the leaseholder in October after our taxes are paid.

2. In an effort to assist the Traffic Calming Committee on their Harvey Rd. issues and to determine exactly where our boundaries lie at the Marsh Rd intersection, we will have a proper survey done along the relevant sections of those roads. As the leasehold land is the responsibility of the trust, the funds for this effort will be expended from the Trustee Administrative account.

3. This summer we became aware of an encroachment from a leasehold into the common lands along Naamans Creek. We have required an escrow from the leaseholder in the amount of \$1500 which will revert to us if the problem has not been resolved by the end of October. Obviously if they don't do the job, the Civic Committee will need to.

4. We have submitted an administrative budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal year in the amount of \$36,520.00. This is a slight reduction from the '98-'99 budget due to a combination of factors but primarily a lower projection for legal fees.

5. You will note on the first page of the Quarterly report that the interest and dividends line item does not appear to be growing much. As we have chosen to reinvest our dividends in both Arden Building and Loan and Vanguard, money which formerly would show up here is now reflected under the "Note: Investment Position" and currently amounts to over \$6000 in dividends earned.

6. The Buckingham Green lawsuit continues at a slow but steady pace. The timeline for resolution continues to be set back as both we and the other side have brought more parties into the action.

7. **Non-conforming Lot status:** We have received a response from the County legal department that implies that anyone wishing to confirm their non-conforming status would have to submit an application for a "Certificate of Non-conforming Status" for their lot. We will be sending letters to leaseholders of non-conforming lots apprising them of this. In essence, unless you have a Certificate of Non-conforming Status, the lot will not be legal as such under the county code. This applies to all lots, including those that were supposedly grandfathered in when county zoning came into existence.

8. **Home Occupation:** The sessions of the County Task Force were scheduled to restart



in September but have been delayed until early November so that the county departments generating additional relevant information have time to compile that information. Until then, there really is nothing to add as an update.

9. We are aware that 2 leaseholds on the market this summer had terminology problems with their signs, indicating that the essentially empty lots were for sale. We addressed this promptly with the leaseholders explaining to them that to imply that the land was for sale was a misrepresentation as the land can not be sold - that, instead, they were simply selling the right to the lease - and suggested that they refer the problem to their lawyers.

10. We have formalized in writing the procedure required for transferring or selling a lease. The goal is to clarify for the leaseholder and lawyers the process that needs to be followed and the various documents relevant to such action. It would be advisable to secure one of these letters from Elizabeth at the office when you are considering a transfer or sale.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Rinehart, trustee

Report approved. See pages 4 and 5 for financial report.

**Archives:** First and foremost, Archives would like to thank BWVC for the purchase of an air conditioner which actually made the space workable this summer.

Acquisitions this quarter include a 1922 edition of *King Arthur and his Knights*, illustrated by Frank Godwin, and an edition of the *Tales from Arabian Nights*, illustrated by Willy Pogany, both of whom were important early Arden artists. Two pieces of pottery were also added to the collection: one by Miriam Hetzel and the other by Francis Solter.

We would like to remind people that Archives is open the first and third Sundays of the month from 1 pm-3 pm. We hope that you will come visit.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Taylor, chairperson

**Discussion:** A resident informed the meeting that Mark Taylor had given some excellent scholarly lectures on Arden recently and that a slide show was going to be presented to Arden this fall, as well as a series of Centennial lectures.

Report approved.

5. **Guest:** State representative Wayne Smith was introduced. He updated the meeting on several past and present projects that he has been involved in: the traffic light at Harvey, the traffic light at Wilm. Montessori, the DelDOT parcel transfer to Ardentown, water basin issues, and \$10,000 erosion control funding.
6. **Auditing:** Chairperson Ken Lipstein had no report.

*Trustees Report continued***Village of Arden**

Receipts and Bank Balances March 25, 1998 to August 31, 1998

<b>Balance in Bank March 25, 1998</b>		<b>183,742.85</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Grants	31,795.30	
Interest & Dividends	1,729.46	
Land Rent:		
Past Fiscal Year(s)	3,380.42	
Present Fiscal Year	160,681.74	
Future Fiscal Year(s)	1.01	
Meadow Lane Access Rent	268.80	
Memorial Garden Donations	915.00	
Miscellaneous	733.51	
Rights of Way:		
Cable TV	0.00	
Roads	0.00	
SUBTOTAL Receipts	199,505.24	
Redeemed Investments	+ 30,000.00	
New Investments	- 272,000.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>(42,494.76)</b>	
Receipts & Starting Bank Balance		141,248.09
Expenditures Against Budget	-	90,404.84
Balance in Bank as of August 31, 1998		<b>50,843.25</b>

**NOTE: Investment Position**

Arden Building and Loan	62,475.00
Vanguard Money Market	281,575.07
Other:	
<b>TOTAL Investment Position</b>	<b>344,050.07</b>

Signatures:

Trustee:

*Gail W. Lusk*

Admin. Assist.:

*Elizabeth Valley*

Village of Arden  
Expenditures Against Budget March 25, 1998 to August 31, 1998

Budget Item	Budgeted Amount	Expenditures F.Y. to Date	Expenditures Since Last Report
<b>Committees:</b>			
Archives	3,780.00	2,129.27	1,765.27
Buzz Ware Village Center	1,000.00	138.13	100.00
Buzz Ware VC: Renovation	6,000.00	3,627.92	0.00
Centennial Celebration	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Civic: Commons & Forest	14,000.00	6,070.43	4,555.81
Civic: Roads	14,000.00	10,067.40	10,065.15
Civic: Special Clean-Up	2,200.00	499.61	0.00
Civic: Trash Collection	34,000.00	13,876.41	8,410.23
Community Planning	1,500.00	989.89	989.89
Com. Plan.: Grant Match Funds	3,000.00	0.00	0.00
Legislative Reference	300.00	0.00	0.00
Playground	1,550.00	927.72	562.72
Registration	3,100.00	786.72	391.45
Safety: General	900.00	752.80	486.59
Safety: Town Watch Coordinator	2,268.00	945.00	567.00
Welcome Hither	250.00	5.00	5.00
<b>Salaries:</b>			
Assembly Secretary	5,214.00	1,975.00	1,185.00
Bookkeeping Services	2,139.00	810.00	486.00
<b>Other Line Items:</b>			
Donations: ACRA	700.00	700.00	0.00
Donations: Arden Library	400.00	400.00	0.00
Donations: Arden Page	1,050.00	1050.00	0.00
Donations: Fire Companies	850.00	850.00	0.00
Gild Hall Rental	650.00	650.00	0.00
Telephone	360.00	94.61	47.28
Contingencies	2,000.00	405.62	405.62
<b>Items Not Subject to Reference</b>			
Memorial Garden Fund		828.41	225.00
Civic: Grants	6,000.00	0.00	0.00
Com Plan.: Grants		21,822.67	(a) 10,709.96
Taxes: New Castle Co. Prop.	55,765.00	5.93	0.00
Taxes: School	144,129.00	15.22	0.00
Administrative: Auditing	3,000.00	3,800.00	2,500.00
Administrative: Insurance	7,000.00	5,453.00	5,453.00
Administrative: Legal	10,000.00	3,203.00	3,203.00
Administrative: Office Rent	2,100.00	875.00	525.00
Administrative: Operations/Fees	4,500.00	2,099.13	1,434.16
Administrative: Payroll Taxes	1,600.00	1,502.50	900.80
Administrative: Salary Ad. Asst.	8,736.00	3,640.00	2,184.00
Less Accrued Taxes		(591.55)	(354.93)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346,041.00</b>	<b>90,404.84</b>	<b>56,803.00</b>

Notes:

(a) Division of Arts: \$5,970.33  
Traffic Calming: \$15,852.34

7. **Budget:** Mariannne Cinaglia, Budget Committee member, provided a handout that introduced a motion to establish a new Capital Improvement and Community Development Fund (see "Capital Improvement . . ." in this report). She explained an ongoing need for improvements in the town: upgrades to facilities, no town office, Archives lacking enough space, etc. In the past when improvements were needed, all of the funds were extracted from one fiscal year, delaying or making extensive upgrades impossible. This fund approach is similar to one's personal budget in that one puts aside money for larger repairs for roofs, heater, etc. over time.
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**Motion background document:**

**Capital Improvement and Community Development Fund**

Sponsor: Budget Committee

FY 1999-2000

**Purpose:** It is the intent of the Budget Committee to propose a Capital Improvement & Community Development Fund to be established in the FY 1999-2000 budget. The impetus for this proposal comes at the suggestion of a significant number of residents. The purpose of the fund is to enable the Village to address extraordinary capital expenditures, too large to be budgeted in a single fiscal year, which, in the judgment of the Fund Oversight Board and the residents of the Village, are necessary to protect and maintain the quality of life in the Village of Arden.

**General Definitions:**

- Capital Improvement and Community Development Fund shall mean funds deposited into a separate account, which will not revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year, and shall not be commingled with the established Reserve funds. This fund can receive money from the town government, individual contributions, and grants. Monies from grants and sources other than land rents can be earmarked for special projects. All interest monies generated on the principal amount shall remain in the Fund.
- Capital Improvement and Community Development expenditures shall refer to expenditures on projects whose magnitude is too large to be budgeted in a single fiscal year.
- Capital Improvement and Community Development projects shall mean but shall not be limited to the following:

**LAND PRESERVATION**

Land preservation monies could be used to support the purchase of land, development rights, and conservation easements, etc., to preserve and insure the continued viability of Arden as a community.

**ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS/EXPANSION OF EXISTING PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

Capital Improvement monies could be used to purchase, construct, or improve public structures.

**GREENWAYS PROJECTS**

A greenways project could involve walkways, paths, bikeways, trails, or other routes for the movement of people or goods.



d. Fund Oversight Board The Fund Review Board shall be made up of two appointees by the Town Chairman, the Town Treasurer, and one person from each of the following organizations/ committees: Planning, Civic, BWVC, Archives, and Budget Committees, the Trustees.

e. Project Review Committee To insure timely cost effective completion of the project and orderly disbursement of funds in a manner consistent with Village of Arden policies, a project review committee shall be appointed with the agreement of the submitting committee and the Oversight Board.

#### **Budget Plan**

The Budget Committee proposes that the FY 1999-2000 budget expenditures increase \$20,000 in a line item appearing on the budget referendum form. (Since the Assessors have already set the land rent rates for FY 1999-2000, this amount will come from the reserve for this year only.) The Committee will recommend budgeted expenditures into this fund in each subsequent budget year.

#### **Project Funding Process**

The Funds would be spent through the Budget process. This process will include:

- Submission of an application, including goals and objectives, guidelines for a general working plan and time line, through one of the regular or ad hoc committees of the Village.
- Review of the application by the Fund Oversight Board.
- Recommendation of action by the Fund Oversight Board with input from Advisory Committee and Town Assembly.
- Approval for the expenditure of funds by the residents of the Village through referendum.
- The Town Treasurer shall be the Fund Administrator in cooperation with the Trustees who are authorized to oversee expenditures and audit.
- The Project Review Committee will guide the project to completion.

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#### **Motion for Establishing Capital Improvement and Community Development Fund:**

Moved that the town will establish a "capital improvement and community development fund."

- This fund can receive money from the town government, individual contributions, and grants. Monies from grants and sources other than land rents can be earmarked for special projects.
- The money in the fund will be accounted for separately, will not revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year, and the money will not be considered as a part of the town's reserve. All interest generated by this fund stays in the fund.
- The budget committee will include a line item in the FY 1999-2000 annual budget indicating the town's official support of this fund. In subsequent years, the Budget Committee will recommend an appropriate amount in each fiscal year.
- A panel to preside over the Capital Improvement and Community Development Fund



## Budget Committee Report continued

and known as the Fund Oversight Board will consist of two persons appointed by the Town Chairman and one member from the Community Planning Committee, the Civic Committee, the Buzz Ware Village Center, the Archives Committee, and the Budget Committee as well as a Trustee and the Town Treasurer. This Board will review applications for expenditures from the fund with input from the Advisory Committee.

- The funds would be spent through town meeting (regular or special) approval of the proposed project expenditure and validated by a referendum. the funds will never be spent to reduce land rent.

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**Capital Improvement Fund discussion and comments:** Since any town meeting could eliminate the fund after it would be established, shouldn't the fund be established through the ordinance process. Land preservation should not be a part of the fund—we are already established as a land trust. Is the proposal slanted toward land purchase? **Response:** The fund could be used as matching funds.

Does the fund address the 501 (c)3 (non-profit tax-exempt) issue? **Response:** No. Who would serve on the fund committee that dispensed the funds? The town chairperson should always be on that committee.

**Amendment:** An amendment was proposed and seconded that would make town chairperson part of fund committee.

Vote was to approve the amendment.

**Discussion continued:** Once a person is on the fund committee, how would that person be removed? Do they serve at the discretion of the chairperson? If fund is eliminated in the future, how would the funds be dispersed? The land acquisition portion was objected to and the possible purchase of the Avery (Marsh Road) property was discouraged: since the land is a watershed, the land would probably not be developed anyway. **Response:** The land is not a wetlands and is not for sale now.

We should be clear that the money for the fund would come from landrent. **Response:** 200 leaseholds divided by \$20,000 budget request equals \$100/year/leasehold.

Who would be administering the grants that the town would be receiving? The oversight of the grant is time-consuming. We should not be raising landrents. There are other fundraising approaches that we should consider, more imaginative approaches. We could have special fundraisers, or look into the Historical Preservation Society. Some leaseholders will be unequally assessed. It is an important thing to get the fund established first. The proposal is fueled by a small number of residents.

Special projects should be voted on individually as line items and stand on their own merits, not this broadbased approach. If we have such a fund, individuals could leave a bequest to the town. With the improvements in place from this fund, our own community would be enhanced and our property values could be increased. Residents did not have enough time to consider this—the September 16 meeting was not publicized enough.

We need a better definition of Capital Improvement. There is no mechanism for disbursing the money if the fund is dissolved in the future. The size and goals of the fund are not addressed. A public meeting should be held to rework the proposal.

**A motion was made to table. Seconded.**

Show of hands: 42 voted to table, 29 voted not to table.

Motion to table was passed.

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**Budget forecast:**

Chairperson Liz Resko submitted their committee's current budget figures and their Projected Budget for 1998-1999, 1999-2000 (see "Arden: FY 1997 . . ." this report).

**Discussion on the budget:** A resident asked the town to consider combining the three fire company donations (Bellevue, Claymont, and Talleyville) into one donation (\$950) to the Claymont Fire Company.

A motion was made to give a donation of \$950 to Claymont and none to Bellevue or Talleyville and seconded.

**Discussion:** A resident said that rather we should continue to give to all three companies that provide backup and support, but that we could consider increasing the Claymont donation.

A vote was taken

**Motion not approved.**

**Discussion continued:** The Arden Book Centennial Edition budget should be corrected (\$7800, not \$7000).

Assessors (Alton Dahl, chairperson) requested a \$100 budget for copying their reports. Approved.

Budget ready to send to referendum.

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**Budget committee member replacement election:**

Larry Walker and Bill Busch have resigned from the committee. Larry's years of service on the Budget committee was recognized. The nominees are Mary Marconi, Mark Zykin, and Denis O'Regan. The nominee elected with the highest votes will serve until March 2000, the second highest will serve to 1999.

A paper ballot was distributed by the Registration Committee and the votes collected. The results of the election were: Denis O'Regan will serve until 2000, Mary Marconi will serve until 1999.

Submitted by,

Liz Resko, chairperson

Report approved. See budget forecast on page 10.

## Budget Forecast

ARDEN  
FY1997-1998 INCOME AND EXPENSE  
PROJECTED BUDGET (FY1998-1999) & (FY 1999-2000)

## NOTES

		(1999-2000)	(1998-1999)	1997-1998
INCOME		PROJECTED	PROJECTED	ACTUAL
Land Rent		\$ 315,000	\$ 310,133	\$310,429
Delaware Municipal Street Aid		20,000	20,000	16,753
Interest and Other Income		24,000	21,000	36,163
<b>SUB-TOTAL: INCOME</b>		<b>\$ 359,000</b>	<b>\$ 351,133</b>	<b>\$363,365</b>
Reserve		121,339	138,103	122,603
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>		<b>\$ 480,339</b>	<b>\$ 489,236</b>	<b>\$485,968</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
<b>NON-BUDGET EXPENSES</b>				
Property Taxes:				
County		58,000	58,150	55,498
School		148,900	145,600	142,525
Trustees Administration		36,520	36,936	34,283
State Grant for Roads to Civic Committee		6,000	6,000	6,000
Delaware Municipal Street Aid - Roads		20,000	20,000	16,753
<b>SUB- TOTAL NON-BUDGET EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 269,420</b>	<b>\$ 264,686</b>	<b>\$ 255,057</b>
<b>BUDGET EXPENSES</b>		<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>BUDGETED</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
Archives	2	3,780	3,780	4,212
Buzz Ware Village Center		1,000	1,000	3,378
Buzz Ware Village - Renovation Project		6,000	6,000	0
Civic Committee:				
Roads		15,000	14,000	13,327
Commons & Forests		15,000	14,000	12,991
Trash Collection		38,500	34,000	32,559
Special Clean - up		2,500	2,200	2,072
Community Planning:		1,500	1,500	8,840
Urban Forestry Grant-Matching Funds	3	3,000	3,000	-
Arden Centennial Celebration Book	7	7,000	-	-
Legislative Reference		300	300	-0
Playground		1,550	1,550	1,300
Registration		3,250	3,100	2,785
Safety - General		900	900	540
Welcome Hither		275	250	111
Salaries:				
Secretary	4	5,369	5,214	4,644
Bookkeeping - Town	5	2,205	2,139	-
Donations:				
ACRA		700	700	700
Arden Page		1,100	1,050	1,000
Arden Library		450	400	400
Fire Companies	6	950	850	850
Gild Hall Rental		700	650	650
Town Telephone		280	360	229
Town Watch Coordinator Fees		2,268	2,268	2,222
Centennial Celebration	7	2,000	2,000	-
Contingencies		2,000	2,000	0
Capital Improvement/Development Fund	8	20,000	-	-
<b>SUB- TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 135,557</b>	<b>\$ 103,211</b>	<b>\$ 92,810</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 404,977</b>	<b>\$ 367,897</b>	<b>\$347,867</b>

## NOTES

- Interest & Other Income Includes: DOL State Grant of \$6,000 to Civic Committee for road projects.
- Archives's rent: \$182/Mo., \$2,184/Yr. - Payable to BWV.
- This amount is needed to commit matching funds for grant proposal; demonstrates commitment by the Town.
- Secretary's salary: Gross \$4,884 plus payroll taxes \$485.
- Bookkeeper's Fee: Gross \$32,004 plus payroll taxes \$201.
- Claymont Fire Co. \$650, Talleyville Fire Co. \$150 and Brandywine Fire Co. \$150.
- As these monies are intended to accumulate to cover expenses related to Centennial Celebration, they will not revert to the General Fund at the end of the FY.
- Capital Improvement/Development Fund is not part of the General Fund and is intended to accumulate. The monies in this account will not revert to the Reserve at the end of the year.

\*\*The Projected Reserve at the end of the FY 1999-2000 will be \$75,362.



8. **Assessors:** Chairperson Alton Dahl requested that nominations for assessors ballot be taken from the floor. The nominees are as follows

Lew Aumack	Mary Marconi
Bernie Brachman	Peter Renzetti
Alton Dahl	James Schwaber
Rick Grier-Reynolds	Beth Stevenson
Harold Kalmus	Steve Threefoot
Lynda Kolski	Elizabeth Varley
Jim Larsen	

Nominees not present and need to confirm their approval to run for assessor

Sandy Hurlong	Linda Eaton
Mike Curtis	Ken Lipstein

Nominations closed.

Registration Committee will prepare the ballot referendum.

9. **Buzz Ware Village Center:**

I hope you all picked up the '99 budget request and the EOY report from 1997 when you signed in this evening. The Center is self supporting with a strong assist from the town. As you can see, profit of operations was \$3,777 last year. We also used a \$3000 special allocation from the town to replace the ceiling in room 1, so really we broke even this year.

We replaced the ceiling in room 2 with some of the budget allocation for 1998. This leaves us about \$2500 to be spent this year on renovations. We will present a master plan in Jan. 1999, with the hope that we can use that money when we have the town's approval. The building is much more user friendly and possibly more popular with the furniture which was donated last year. We continue to have between 20 to 30 community meetings a month. Groups seem to grab the comfy chairs in room 4 when they have a chance.

The only unusual expense was a much needed air conditioner we purchased for Archives. This is money well spent, as my wife and I, along with another Arden resident, learned over the weekend. We had the pleasure to hear Mark Taylor's lecture on "Arden, A Single Tax Community", which he presented at the Gustav Stickley museum in Morris Plains, N.J. His presentation was especially enjoyable because of the number of slides of antique photos loaned by Peg Aumack and Don Holcomb which Mark used to build his portrait of the beginnings of our community. This material can really be a heritage for Arden's children. We are very fortunate that it is still available to share.

This year's campfire has been moved to Indian Circle, Friday, October 9 at 7 p.m. Please bring a blanket, flashlight and a story.

[See BWVC Current Budget and Proposed Budget at end of this report.]

*Buzz Ware Village Center Committee Report continued***Budget for Buzz Ware Village Center**

The Buzz Ware Village Center depends on two sources of funding to meet annual obligations. The BWVC Operating Budget, a separate account, controls the revenues and associated expenditures associated with the daily operation and maintenance of the Center. The Town Assembly budget provides for administrative expenses and town authorized special needs.

Operating Budget			Town Assembly Budget	
97-98 Final	INCOME	99-00 Proposed	Programming \$ 1000	
\$ 2184 .....	Archives	\$ 2184	Renovation	<u>6000</u>
15640 .....	Hand in Hand	15640	Total	\$ 7000
2970 .....	YMCA	4080		
200 .....	Stage Hand Union	200		
500 .....	Ardentown	500		
	..... Ardencroft	300		
450 .....	Other Rentals	450		
<u>242 .....</u>	<u>Interest/Dividends</u>	<u>510</u>		
\$ 22,186 .....	Total Income	\$ 23,864		
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
\$ 4920 .....	Custodial	\$ 5400		
455 .....	Overhead	475		
5104 .....	Maintenance	6000		
1688 .....	Supplies	1700		
1522 .....	Heat-Fuel Oil	1600		
410 .....	Telephone	425		
2662 .....	Electric	2700		
746 .....	Water	800		
659 .....	Security	700		
<u>242 .....</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>250</u>		
\$ 18,409 .....	Total Expenses	\$ 20,050		
\$ 3,777 .....	Year profit	\$ 3,814		

[Note: 242. Misc. total corrected from original report submitted. A month-by-month breakdown of income and expenses was also submitted with this report.]

Submitted by Tom Wheeler, chairperson

Report approved.

**10. Civic:**

1. Roadwork for this season has been completed. Drainage work on Hillside and Millers has been rebid and will begin soon.
2. Fall spraying for invasives has been started and we need to wait a few more weeks until we continue.
3. We will work on putting up post and rail fencing and marker posts along new survey in October.
4. The price for polyurethane composite columns for the Field Theater is approximately \$2000. The price for wood turned columns is approximately \$2200 (Mark Taylor will supply columns in wood for approximately \$1200-1400, he is doing the wood turning pro bono). [The cost for replacing the columns is part of a \$4000 one time state grant for repairing the Style Path, Patro's Path to the Field Theater]
5. Plastic sand-filled drums and stop signs will be put up in the Walnut/Miller/Lower intersection as part of the trial project. The project setup will stay up around 3 months.

Submitted by,

Rodney Jester, chairperson

**Discussion on column replacement in the Field Theater:** Wood is easy to deface. Peter Renzetti will carve the capitols.

Vote was in favor of using wood columns that will be woodturned by Mark Taylor.

**Discussion on intersection trial period:** Could the town be sued if the reconfiguration of the intersection is not clearly marked and an accident occurs. **Response:** Flashing lights could be put on to the markers.

**Motion to not close off Harvey as part of trial project (rescind that part of the proposal from last own meeting).** Seconded.

**Discussion:** The town would probably not spend the estimated \$30,00 to do the project anyway. We have no benchmark to judge the effect of the reconfiguration—how many cars are slowed down, is there less traffic, etc. **Response:** Once the barrels are up, emergency vehicles, school bus, etc. can be driven through the intersection to see if it works for larger vehicles.

**A vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

Report approved.

**11. Community Planning Report**

Lynda Kolski, chairperson, submitted the following report.

**Harvey Road**

I-95 is scheduled to be repaved beginning in the spring of 2000. Beverly Barnett and I are members of the I-95 working group that was created to provide community input on this. As part of the repaving, DelDot has proposed several traffic management options or what they are calling "improvement concepts" to help facilitate the flow of traffic through local roads as it is diverted off I-95 during repaving. Two of these improvement concepts involve Harvey Road.

One is to widen the Harvey/Veale intersection for the purpose of making it easier for the Dart buses to make the turn. We have proposed that since both Dart buses and school



*Community Planning Report continued*

buses have been making this turn successfully for many years, that DelDot save a lot of tax payer dollars and simply use shorter buses, which they already own.

The other improvement concept is the widening of the Harvey/Marsh intersection. This would include using land on the Arden side of Harvey Road for the widening, as well as land from Papa Johns corner and in front of the Odd Fellows Building. DelDot believes this land is in their right-of-way. As Gail mentioned, the trustees are having a survey done to determine exactly where Arden's boundary is.

To date, we have tried to bring this issue to the attention of the State Historic Preservation Office. Since Arden is listed on the National Historic Register and Ardentown and Ardencroft have been declared eligible, DelDot is required by federal law to assess any impact that any federally funded transportation project might have on our communities. These assessments then have to be presented to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review. If the State Historic Preservation Office determines there will be an adverse effect, they can take measures to stop it. To date, DelDot has not done these assessments. Arden, Ardentown and Ardencroft have each sent a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office asking for the required assessments.

DelDot currently has two plans to repave I-95. Depending on which method they use, Harvey Road could experience either a 60% increase in traffic or possibly a slight reduction in traffic. We're advocating the plan that would result in the latter, not just because it will reduce traffic, but also because it will cost significantly less to do and can be completed in one construction year, instead of two. We would also like to see a traffic-calming plan implemented before this project is undertaken, particularly if it means an increase in traffic.

There have been a number of articles and editorials in the News Journal recently about Harvey Road. A Brandywine Hundred resident has made a request to the local politicians and DelDot, asking that Harvey Road be improved - in other words, widened and straightened. He is very serious about this and is aggressively pursuing it. So we are also trying to deal with this issue by gaining support for traffic calming.

In addition, Claymont Fire Company is now talking about requesting a northbound access ramp from Harvey Road onto I-95 for emergency vehicles. Although the ramp would be gated and for emergency vehicles only, I think once it's there, the surrounding community will push to get it opened for public use. The fire company claims they need it because of a high number of life-threatening accidents on the curve of I-95 that backs up to Claymont High School. We've asked to see accident statistics on this, but still have not received them.

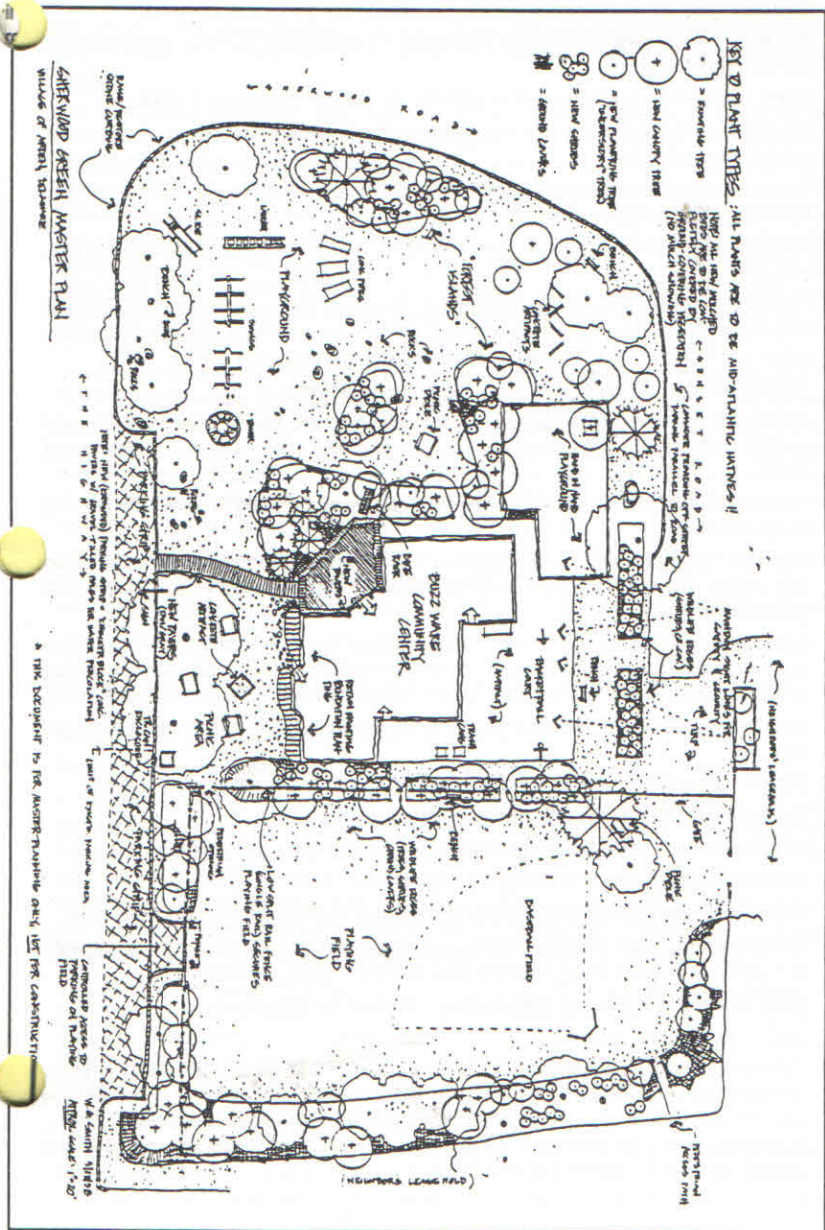
As you can see, there are a number of pressures on Harvey Road besides speeding. Bev Barnett, chairman of the Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee will report on the traffic-calming plan. [Traffic Calming Report follows later in this report]

**Sherwood Green**

Gary Smith, the landscape architect hired to develop a conceptual master plan for the Sherwood Green, has submitted his final draft of the plan. Complete copies of the report are available from Community Planning if anyone is interested in reading it in its entirety.

The recommendations in this plan reflect input from Arden Residents obtained through several community meetings held with Gary. In general, the plan recommends:

## Sherwood Green Master Plan





*Community Planning Report continued*

Maintaining active recreation as the primary purpose of the Sherwood Green.

Accommodating existing site uses, minimizing conflicts between them and enhancing the setting for each.

Using native plants and trees and enhancing native plant and animal habitats.

Improving and/or restoring the overall beauty of the landscape in ways that preserve its unique sense of place.

The plan then goes into specific recommendations for site uses, vegetation and site furnishings. I'll just highlight some of those.

Retain existing site uses in their current locations (playgrounds, ball fields, picnic areas, etc.)

Permit controlled parking on the playing field. Surround the green with a single rail split fence and allow parking only during scheduled community events. Establish a parking policy that includes staffed supervision of the parking area during events.

Restore lawns through aeration, fertilizing and over-seeding.

Forest islands, which are vertical layerings of canopy trees, flowering trees, shrubs and wildflowers/ferns, are proposed along the west side of the BWVC and along Sherwood Road.

Remove existing black cherries and white birch near entrance to BWVC, which are heaving the pavement.

Provide a buffer between Sunset Road and the basketball court and enclose the green with wildlife edges, which are large borders of trees and/or shrubs with a dense native groundcover.

Maintain a wildlife edge in the strip of land adjacent to the Phillips leasehold, which is extremely valuable as a wildlife edge because the soils there have not been compacted by cars and sports activities so that a healthy regeneration of native plant habitat is likely.

Install water-permeable unit paving in the entire expanded parking strip along the Highway.

Install a new walkway and building entrance plaza, using precast concrete pavers.

Raise/restore stone curbs along all adjacent roads

Install low post-and-rail fencing (a single rail high) to enclose the green.

Develop a unified design for all signs and graphics.

Extend the existing parking strip along the Highway, bordering the playing field area.

Remove asphalt from existing parking strip and replace entire extended parking strip with concrete checker block pavers to facilitate storm water percolation.

**We'd like to move that the town approve the plan as presented.**

Community Planning has submitted a grant request for another Urban Forestry Grant to complete the final phase of this plan. This involves adding another level of detail to this plan. For example, defining what kind of trees go in the forest islands and wildlife edges, prioritizing areas to be addressed, timelines, maintenance and costs. We should hear in October whether or not the grant is accepted.



### Arden Book

The Arden Book Committee, consisting of Ruth Bean (chair), Sally Hamburger, Connee McKinney, Lynda Kolski, Elizabeth Varley and Harry Thermal, met and made some changes in the content to update the book. The committee asked Connee to develop a production budget.

For background, the last printing, distributed in 1992, was for 1400 books. There will be none left by January 2000. The cost of printing at that time was \$2,243. Ardencroft and Ardentown reimbursed us for their share of books. We had an initial distribution to each household and have made sure that each new resident received a copy. Distribution is undertaken by the Welcome Hither committee. Books have also been sold at \$6 each at the fair and to interested people, which has added a \$1,172 return to the Village. Archives has also sold the book and finds it a popular item. Over the last seven years, about 434 were distributed to residents of the village and also by Trustees, Community Planning or others for public relations benefit. We find the sales have underwritten much of the original outlay.

The committee suggests that we print 3000 books this time so that we avoid the need to reprint for at least ten years. We recommend a multicolor cover to highlight this "special edition" for the centennial. The total cost of this would come to \$7,851. We expect both Ardencroft and Ardentown to pay for their share of books. Thus with sales, the major amount we put out now, should again over time be reimbursed to the Village. If the cover design ends up using only one color, the cost would be less, but we felt a centennial issue deserves to "shine". We ask for approval to proceed with our recommendations.

We also urge anyone who has ideas or corrections to the book to contact Sally Hamburger, who generously offered to be responsible for getting the material on a disc. It is still open for changes, so let her know or contact one of the other committee members.

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### Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee Report

#### Beverly Barnett, Chair

I wish to pass on to the residents of this community a compliment from the contact person DelDOT appointed to monitor our traffic calming efforts. As a road design engineer, Mike Simmons participates in many public meetings across the state. He said this was the most intelligent and properly conducted community involvement he had ever been part of, that we had taken time to educate ourselves and do things properly. One of his colleagues recommended to DelDOT and WILMAPCO that Newark use our model for developing its traffic calming plan, perhaps even hiring the same consultant.

The problem is people drive too fast. We, as a community, have been addressing for past two years how to make the road safer not only for residents but also for others using the road. Police and DelDOT statistics identify our primary safety problem as speeding. When we began, the 85th percentile speeds along Harvey Road were 45 mph for the section from Sconset Road to Veale Road (posted 35 mph) and 38 mph for the section from Veale Road to Marsh Road (posted 25 mph).

We began with educational efforts in the form of a Drive 25 campaign to change our own driving habits and, through publicity in the *News Journal*, the habits of other road users. Next we asked for and received increased enforcement from State Police Troop One.

*Community Planning Committee Report continued*

Though statistics are spotty, two years ago, arrests averaged 9 per week. This month the arrest average is 8 per week. We haven't eliminated the problem yet.

In the first years, 5 residents attended a DelDOT seminar on traffic calming, and learned about a way to make the road permanently, naturally slower, to alter the road itself so natural driving speed matches the posted speed limit. Also last summer we received a grant from DelDOT for traffic calming, and used it to contract with nationally-known traffic calming consultants for a concept plan, preliminary estimate of probable cost, and plan drawings. This summer three community meetings were led by the consultant to present and explore traffic calming options specifically for Harvey Road.

Tonight we reach a checkpoint in the process, and I for one am looking forward to more "intelligent and properly conducted community involvement." Now we the town need to decide whether or not to adopt the plans developed this summer. We need to decide whether or not to continue working toward traffic calming on Harvey Road.

This effort has been an experiment in cooperation among the three Ardens. At its September meeting, Ardentown by a vote of 33 to 7 approved the plan. Ardencroft did not have a quorum present at the end of the discussion, and therefore no vote could be taken. We'll be voting later tonight.

The decision of whether or not to fund traffic calming is NOT ours. Funding decisions are made through the DelDOT and WILMAPCO priority process, where I believe our request will be well-received. Ultimately funding is decided next June by the Delaware General Assembly when the bond bill is voted.

Now I will describe the elements of traffic calming concept in detail. You received a copy of the overall plan in the September *Arden Page*. Harvey Road residents had a chance this summer for an on-site review of the design closest to their homes and which would affect them most.

- Threshold or Gateway that tells motorists that this is a different place than where they've been driving. This is someone's home town. It's a way to say more emphatically "You Are Welcome Hither," especially as a law-abiding driver. The design takes plants and pillars from our landscape and puts them on the road. Benefits are to reunite 2 sides, and make it safer for pedestrians to cross.

- Enhanced pedestrian visibility at street and path intersections, and bus stops. Traffic calming can be a way to stitch our community together again by making it safe to use all parts of our pedestrian network, including those paths that cross Harvey Road, a precious part of our founders' heritage.

- Center islands at Sconset and in Arden near historic marker and Memorial Garden are expected to reduce running speeds in their immediate vicinity by about 3 mph.

- Intelligent "rest on green" traffic signals at Sconset, Veale, Orleans, and Marsh Roads will have unknown impacts on running speed. This light would turn red if a motorist exceeds the speed limit. The first test of this measure is about to begin in Boulder, Colorado. No speed impact data are as yet available. It's assumed that motorists reduce their speeds to 5 miles per hour over the speed limit 300 feet upstream of the light, and then accelerate when they see they will make the green light.

- The last and most controversial aspect of the plan is five raised intersections or speed tables which have ramps rising 6 inches over 6 feet and flat plateaus within the intersections averaging 24 feet. Speed will be 25 mph at each device. It is this aspect of the traffic calming plan that the fire company fears will slow emergency response.



Now for the shocking part. If fully constructed, this design would cost \$850,000 + 25%. For comparison, simply repaving one mile of a two-lane road costs \$1000. Assuming these devices last 15 years, and we continue to have 14,000 cars per day, the cost of the traffic calming devices is 1 ¢ per trip.

A "yes" vote means that this traffic calming plan is deserving of the next step, an engineering design by DelDOT. I move that the Village of Arden accept this concept design, and that the Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee continue working toward its implementation.

Submitted by,

Beverly Barnett, Chair [Traffic Calming]

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**Discussion on Harvey Road Traffic Calming Plan:** We should reach out to the media for outside support. The Claymont Fire Company is not officially against the speed tables. They have legitimate concerns. The number of traffic lights could be reduced or have automatic lights (effectiveness unproved). What about the radar speed detectors that take photographs of license plates. The committee was thanked for their efforts and for their desire to bring the communities together to solve the problem. We should have bike paths and walking paths along Harvey—it is our road. Response: Consultants did look at that, but it presented engineering problems with the embankments, right of way, and stone steps there.

**Vote was in favor of continuing work on plan.**

Report approved.

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**Discussion on Sherwood Green Plan [see plan Sherwood Green Master Plan]:**

The plan appears to have too many plantings. Room 3 has double doors so that it accesses directly to the Sherwood Green. ACRA staff would have problems seeing over the plantings to the playground. The plantings by room 1 means that the flow to the playing field were be restricted. We need more open space, not less. The green should give vistas. We should have Master Plan from BWVC first. We need another layer of detail on the next report so that we can see what are the canopy trees and what are the shrubs that could block sightlines. The consultant has gone too far, gates at the back of the green that are proposed are not an Arden-type of solution. The basketball court should not be cut off from sight of the area residents—it helps to be able to monitor the activity there. How does this plan affect the Arden Fair use of the green? What about the maintenance costs and help to keep pruned and such? Parking area would take out trees there now. Response: We would not be cutting down trees for parking. Civic is in charge of greens maintenance. The next step is costs, then guidelines and timeline. This is the second phase. We hope to get an Urban Forestry Grant for third phase. Specific grants could be applied for to bring in outside money.

**Motion to accept plan as it is and committee work on specifics.**

Motion approved.



12. **Legislative Reference:** Chairperson John Stevenson had no report.

13. **Playground:** Chairperson Rich Bloom had no report.

14. **Registration Committee:**

The Budget Referendum and ballots for the election of Board of Assessors will be mailed on October 15, 1998. Ballots will be counted November 9 at the Buzz Ware Village Center at 7:30 p.m. As of today, there are 379 eligible voters in Arden. There are 395 adult residents and 88 children, according our latest count.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecilia Vore, chairperson

Report approved.

15. **Safety:**

The traffic design firm assisting DelDOT with the I-95 road construction, Phillips, Frank & Assoc., has asked me to represent the Arden Safety Committee on an advisory group. This committee will consist of representatives from the state police, Claymont Fire Company, the Medical Center of Delaware, etc. This construction project will have a major impact on our village and I would be honored to represent Arden on this committee and ask that this assembly approve my nomination.

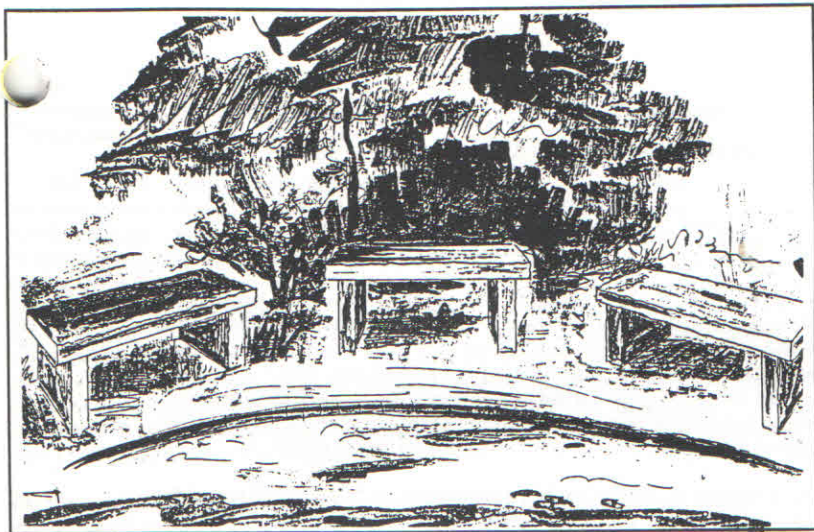
At the last town assembly, I said that the Safety Committee was going to test a painted "No Parking This Side" stencil on the road on the east side of Meadow Lane near Harvey. Although the effectiveness at this location has been a mixed bag, we would like to try a new location on Inn Lane between Woodland and Cherry. This would require the temporary removal of the 4 "No Parking" signs there now. The Safety Budget would cover the \$150 (estimate) for the professional painting.

Submitted by,  
Tim Colgan, chairperson

Report approved.

16. **Advisory:** Chairperson Judy Butler had no report.

17. **Centennial:** Rodney Jester, Georgist Gild, made a proposal to the Centennial Committee for a bench in memory of Henry George and the Single Tax [see page 21] that would be placed across from the Threefoots-Woodland on the Arden Green. A supplier is getting costs for the granite. A small marker would state that the bench is in George's memory. Discussion: Do we need a marker? Response: Yes, it would be small.



Proposed Henry George Centennial Memorial

**New business:**

A moment of silence was requested for long-time residents Gene Shaw, Arlene Davis, Harold Monfort, and Cosette Morley who passed away since the last town meeting. The secretary was asked to send cards to the families.

A resident asked that we return to the practice of noting any sick or recently deceased residents at the beginning of town meeting as a formal part of the agenda. Residents recalled Harold Monfort, who moved to in Arden in 1922, and his suggestion to surveyors to name Harvey Road after the Harvey farm rather than continuing with the name Grubb Road.

Rodney Jester informed the meeting of the Henry George Social Problems class that was beginning in October. Call him if you want information about it.

Call for adjournment.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Connee Wright McKinney*  
Connee Wright McKinney, Town Assembly Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: January 25, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gild Hall**

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF ARDEN

### Abstaining from support of the 1997 - 8 Board of Assessors Land Rent Proposal : Basis and Dismay

☉ As noted in the official minutes of the last Town Assembly, I was 1 of 2 Assessors who abstained from approving the formal proposal of the Board. My view of an Assessor either rejecting or abstaining from approving the official proposal for establishing *land rent* requires an overt explanation to the Village Residents. Due to a decision error prior in June, I was unable to present my minority report at that time; in view of the crowded schedule for this night's meeting, I take this more impersonal means of a hand-out to set the matter straight - talk to me during a midpoint 'break' or after the meeting if questions remain.

To fully understand my position you have to understand the following background facts :

1. this year's Assessors were a hard working group - 2 generally sincere & intense hours per month for 8-months;
2. many specific elements of the total proposal were considered - some of which were agreed to by all & others passed by majority vote, with just about everyone sometimes being in the majority & other times in the minority; and
3. just as *approval* of the final proposal does not signify total acceptance of all elements, neither does on *rejection* or *abstinence* signify a total negativity.

☉☉ There were some issues with which I did and still do believe to be major defects of our taxation system but which I had neither a better solution nor a more saleable one : *i.e.* the *folding of house values into land values*, the *irrational & discriminatory method of taxing some domiciles but not others*, and the *all-or-none surcharge taxation of frontage on Woodlands or Greens*. *None of these disagreements served as a basis for rejecting the total proposal, however.*

☉ One major point of disagreement - for which a number of you best know me (and one which I presume was one underlying reason for electing me to this year's Board) - **relates to the discriminatory higher taxation rate for smaller leaseholds** (referred to by some Biblical economists as the "St. James principle" ("to those who have shall be given, to those who have not shall be taken away")). To those of my constituency who support me in this, I can only say that I fought the good fight & will continue whether you elect me ever again or not. Again, the defeat was sanctified by the ever-recurring theme of "*the Town has gone along with the old way for a long time, let's not change it*", placing major responsibility on the community (& thus some greater hope for the future!).

☉☉ Most importantly, however, **my refusal to support the majority land rent proposal relates to the Board's continued effort to KNOWINGLY NOT CHARGE LAND RENT**, in violation of the Assessors' sworn Oath of Office.\* This one legally mandated



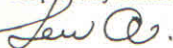
requirement is probably the most vital & binding commitment of not only the Assessors & Trustees but the community as a whole !

In stark verbal contrast to this, the elected Board of Assessors publicly stated, for two successive years, that the **FULL RENTAL VALUE** of Arden leaseholds was *"probably about 3 times what we now charge"*. Last year's elected Board did nothing overt to correct this glaring discrepancy. This year's Board boldly committed itself in February to making a significant move toward the "land rent" mandate 1) by means of the economic concept of "Capital Improvement", i.e. the accumulation of profits / earnings from land rent for the future development, improvement or expansion of the Village system of resources and 2) by making the transition gradual & relatively painless (e.g. by increasing land rent by only about 10%). Unfortunately, the Board's February commitment was unilaterally revoked by the Chairman & subsequently supported by 3 members & rejected by 2. To 'this ole bird's' double dismay, not only was our earlier consensus killed but done, still again, on the basis of *'the Town might object, so let's keep it the way it was !'*.

@@@ Now! If this is what is meant in the Oath to *"faithfully perform....to the best of (our) ability....(to) assess the full rental value....as required...."*, I see no reason why we should not replace the time-consuming, rather fruitless effort of 7 elected officials over a 12-month timespan with but a simplistic mail-in questionnaire !

Other than that, **I EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR NEXT YEAR'S BOARD AND EAGERLY AWAIT THEIR MEETINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS !!!**

Respectfully submitted,



Lew Aumack  
Assessor

September 28, 1998

(name) do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully perform and discharge my duties as Assessor of Arden to the best of my ability, and that I will as nearly as possible, assess the full rental value for the Arden land as required by the Deed of Trust and the Leases of Arden".

The Homestead  
2313 Woodland Lane  
Arden, DE 19810  
September 20, 1998

BILL PRESS  
Chairman, Village of Arden  
c/o Connee McKinney, Secty.  
1801 Inn Lane  
Arden, DE 19810

Dear Bill,

We would like to renew our heartfelt appreciation to the many Ardenites who, in past years, have given support to the endangered species project in memory of our daughter Holly who died a while back. For those not previously contacted, the dedication plaque reads :

*This habitat, a sanctuary where the endangered Snow Leopard can live,  
was built with the help of donations in celebration of  
HOLLY AUMACK  
who loved animals all her life (1951 - 1995)*

As an update, donations have enabled an enlargement of the fenced-in natural area near the lions and LENA , the original Snow Leopard, is now accompanied by a mate named JUNO. Word is that they get along well, although occasional territorial disputes occur - but who among us would be the first to cast a stone at that phenomenon !

Anyone planning a future trip to the Nova Scotia peninsula should note the address :

Oakland Farm Zoo  
RR #1, Aylesford, Nova Scotia  
Canada B0P 1C0

Although the farm is just off a main highway through the Annapolis Valley on the northern shore, we would be happy to draw-up a detailed map if desired.

Thank you all again for you kind support.

*Peggy Lew.*  
Peggy & Lew Aumack

Village of Arden  
2300 Cherry Lane  
Arden, DE 19810-4002

Dated material enclosed

- Notice of Town Meeting with Agenda
- Minutes from preceding Town Meeting
- Notice of Assessors Public Meeting

Town meeting is open to the public.

An Arden resident is eligible to vote if over 18 and is a resident for 6 consecutive months prior to meeting.